Your ref:	A00010567GB	**Examiner:**	Rich Corken
Application No:	GB 0208971.2	**Tel:**	01633 814328
Applicant:	Fisher-Rosemount Systems, Inc.	**Date of report:**	22 April 2004
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Patents Act 1977
Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Novelty (section 1(1)(a))

1. The invention as defined in claim 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38 is not new because it has already been disclosed in the following documents:

GB 2294793 A (HITACHI) - relevant to claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38
US 5521842 A (YAMADA) - relevant to claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38
GB 2294129 A (LOWE) - relevant to claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38
US 4853175 (BOOK, SR.) - relevant to claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38

2. HITACHI discloses a support system for the failure analysis of a plant. For each failure the position of a point causing the failure, the situation of the failure and a method of coping with the failure is given. This can be seen in figure 7. Each device also has a code associated with it, as shown in figure 11. Therefore claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38 are anticipated.

3. YAMADA discloses a diagnostic device for a communication system. In response to a particular failure code from a particular device, an optimum countermeasure is displayed to the operator, as shown in figure 6. The "alarm table" in this case, see figure 5, lists a set of failure codes for each device type along with suggested countermeasures for each failure and their respective success probabilities. Thus claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38 are anticipated.

4. LOWE discloses, see pages 1 and 2, a fault monitoring system for use in a plant such as a nuclear power station. A graphic display is used to inform the operator of what course of action is needed when a particular device has a particular problem. In light of this document, claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38 are anticipated.

5. BOOK discloses an interactive display apparatus and method which can be used to calculate the current status of a power plant. If there are any non-normal operating conditions, these can be diagnosed. The symptoms of such non-normal operating conditions are stored by a computer. When the computer has determined that the non-normal operating conditions have reached an extreme level, power plant personnel are notified. Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35-38 are therefore not novel.

[Examination Report contd.]

Inventive step (section 1(1)(b))

6. The invention as defined in claims 2, 8, 11, 14, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 30, 31, 34, and 39-41 is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the documents cited above for novelty.

7. Claims 2, 14, 25, and 34 are directed to using the "Fieldbus" protocol which is an industry standard communications protocol for use with intelligent devices. As such, it would be obvious to the skilled worker to use this standard and these claims are obvious.

8. Claims 8, 11, 19, 21, 27, 30, 39, and 40 are merely directed to user operation of the display such as the changing of the operating language or the display of a certain message field and thus do not involve an inventive step.

9. Claims 22, 31, and 41 are directed to the organization of routines within hardware for which do not appear to give a technical advantage over the documents cited above so therefore these claims also do not involve an inventive step.

Clarity (section 14(5)(b))

10. Claim 43 casts doubt on the scope of the invention and should be deleted.